This is our VVRC REPEATER print version. An expanded online version is available by free subscription. Go to w6vvr.net

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER

VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA **May 2015**

Meeting Minutes, 2015

The April meeting of the VVRC, was opened at 19:25 hr., by the President, Frank – KJ6RWQ.

The first and primary topic of the evening that he brought to the membership turned into an open and very lively discussion on the proposed "swap meet".

He said that as of the meeting, he had tentatively secured his church's parking lot for Saturday, October 3, for our use at no-cost, HOWEVER, the church requires that we have liability insurance. He added that, in his opinion, we really ought to have the insurance anyway for any and all other function of the VVRC as well — just in case someone was hurt. He bolstered his opinion by telling the membership that without the insurance, the Board of Directors, and the VVRC itself, were skating on thin ice because they could be sued in the event of an injury. The insurance that he had found would cost the membership somewhere in the neighborhood of $200 - $300 / year. And then, returning to the swap meet itself, he suggested that we really should provide two "porta-potties" at an additional cost of nearly $250.

The board was reminded that the California QSO Party (CQP), the premier state QSO party, is held every year on the first weekend of October, and is now in a direct conflict. A couple VVRC members are already committed to the CQP so they won't be able to work the swap meet.

Entering into the lively discussion, our Finance officer, Bob – K6HEW, said that he thought that this insurance charge would present a real financial challenge to the club because we haven't even brought in $300 / year in dues for the past few years.

---------->

IN THIS ISSUE

Club Minutes for April----------1 to 2
Suggested Field Day Items----------2
The Bit Bucket Items----------3
Ham connection to Lusitania----------4
North Hills Hamfest Flyer----------6
Application and Misc----------6

Another member questioned the wisdom of this huge deficit spending idea that has already reached about $550, with absolutely no assurance at this juncture that we have any possibility what-so-ever of recouping our outlay because we are "un-known" and "un-tested" in the world of ARC swap meets.

Then, Frank's suggestion that we consider raising the annual dues from the present $20 to possibly $30, or $36 / year to cover the insurance resulted in more of those present actively joining in the discussion.

Frank said that to raise more funds, we really needed to increase the membership rolls, and then floated the idea that one way to do that would be to spend the necessary money to produce and mail an invitation letter to former members with the hope that it might draw them back into the fold.

A long time VVRC member shared that he had previously participated in an identical effort, but, after spending $250 on printing/postage to send an invitation to every HAM registered with the FCC in Solano County, we only netted eight to ten visitors and no new members.

Bob was asked if he could re-structure the dues system so that it reflected an annual date-to-date basis

Continued on Page 2------->

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Frank Garay, KJ6RWQ
Vice President: Kim, KJ6JNX
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Suggested Field Day Activity

You may wish to consider this in your Field Day planning.

"We're a little over two months away from Field Day. Here in California, we have a huge ham population, many of whom are active only on VHF/UHF and, most likely, only know of the coverage capabilities of FM.

A number of us are working to leverage our huge ham population to our advantage by doing some coordinated operating on Saturday evening of Field Day. Most every Field Day group utilizes a "free" VHF station, but on 144 and 432 MHz they are beaming all over the compass. By Coordinating our efforts by way of having northern stations beam Southward, and vice-versa, we think we can improve our QSO numbers and, in the process, demonstrate to a lot of hams the long-distance capabilities of our VHF/UHF bands.

The concept is outlined below:

During Field Day, let's take advantage of our local ham population throughout the state of California by participating in a "North-South Activity Hour" beginning at 8 PM PDST (0300 UTC) Saturday night. FD VHF stations in Southern California will beam north, and stations in Northern/Central California will beam south, with activity entering between 144.220 and 144.260 MHz on SSB (or CW). At 8:30 PM (0330 UTC), activity switches to 432 MHz, with activity centering between 432.110 and 432.150 MHz SSB/CW. Come back to 2 meters once done on 432.

FD stations with other bands like 222 MHz can "move" each other from the above activity centers.

The idea of this coordinated activity is to get North/South stations beaming toward each other, in a concentrated effort, at a time when tropospheric propagation generally is best. Long term, Field Day is a great way to expose a large number of amateurs to new bands and modes, and this kind of an activity boost is a great way to demonstrate the long-distance capabilities of our VHF and UHF bands.

We hope that everyone will spread the word to be sure their "free" VHF/UHF station on Field Day gets on 144/432 MHz SSB/CW between 8 PM and 9 PM Saturday night. There are lots of hams here in California—let's work each other

Thanks and 73,
Chip Margelli, K7JA ARRL East Bay Section Section Manager
James R Latham, AF6AQ af6aq@arrl.org

Contined from page 1

instead of the present Jan. – Dec. basis, and he said that he could make that happen.

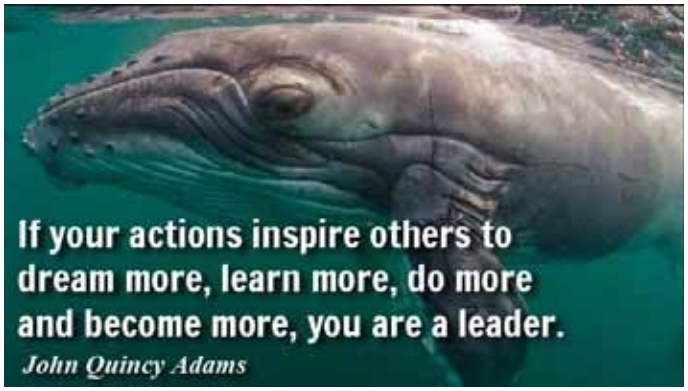
A quick vote was taken, and passed, as to whether the VVRC should proceed further in the matter of the liability insurance.

Taking a short pause in all the discussion, Brian – KK6BXP, gave a very brief overview of the new state-of-the-art, Yaesu C4FM "Fusion System" radios.

Next on the agenda was our guest speaker for the evening, Chris Gifford – KJ6LZR, who is the event chairman for this year's North Hills Radio Club swap meet which is to be held on Sunday, 17 May.

Chris was kind enough to spend time with us and share some ideas that the North Hills group uses to make their swap meet so successful year after year. He had to admit that one BIG plus in their favour was that they have a track record spanning many, many years of successful swap meets, which really attracts the vendors and that makes it all a success. HE went on to say that they have a membership roll that is more than twice the number of ours, and after all is said, some events just work better when many hands make light work, no matter what the task.

Submitted by "Skip", AFHC
VVRC Secretary



THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

THE BIT BUCKET

Check out these two hams

F4FFH
E23PKO
Each one QSO'd with this afternoon
4FFH @ 20:16 UTC
E23PKO @ 20:37 UTC
30 watts to each ham & the G5RV
Both on the 17 meter band using the JT65-HF program

7 3, Marcus, KI6WDX

Newer Radio Amateurs Asked to Participate on Online Survey

Kentucky academic researcher Joel Shelton, N8XJ/A65BX (seen in the photo), is seeking radio amateurs licensed since January 1, 2000, to take part in an online survey. The survey is part of a research project. Shelton is focusing on newer hams because, he said, "I am interested in what attracts people to take up a century-old hobby for the first time in the 21st century." Shelton asked that if you fit this category to complete his online survey. He said he plans to use the survey results to prepare articles — one for an academic journal — about the current state of Amateur Radio and what continues to attract newcomers. Contact Shelton for more information. — ***Thanks to Joel Shelton, N8XJ, via QRZ.com***

HEADS UP FOLKS!!!

WOW – how time flies!!! Only 1 week until we kick off this year's Indianapolis Race season with the first race!! Whooo-hoooo!!

For those of you who have never worked this event, you can find the whole story when you look up W9IMS on www.QRZ.com

In brief: you need to work EACH race event at least ONCE to be eligible for a QSL card – that really goes without saying, BUT ….. if you get into the log at least ONCE, for 3 of the 4 race events throughout the Summer, (see the exact details on their web page at QRZ.com) you will not only receive the QSL card for each of the events worked, but you will ALSO receive - in addition - a very nice, personalized, suitable for framing certificate for your efforts. So, how great is that, eh??

AND, I've got to tell you from personal experience that you'll have a lot of fun working these good folks. It's not difficult, and it's NOT "contesting", so that objection doesn't hold water.

Hint : If you really want to earn the certificate and are afraid of forgetting WHEN each race is, do like I just did — I marked my calendar with the race events just so that I WON'T forget to work it.

Yeppers, this will mark the FOURTH consecutive year that Jerry – KD6WKY – and I will have worked this event and earned our certificates, so if you've got a silly question, give either of us a call – we're both willing to try and answer it for you.

OK – hope to hear you on the bands!!

73 – de Skip – AF6HC

W9IMS USA
Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club,
W9IMS, PO BOX 30954
Indianapolis, IN 46230

2015 SCHEDULE

The Grand Prix of Indianapolis - May 6-9
Indianapolis 500 - May 18-24
Brickyard 400 - July 20-26
Red Bull Indianapolis Moto GP - August 3-9 -

FREQUENCIES

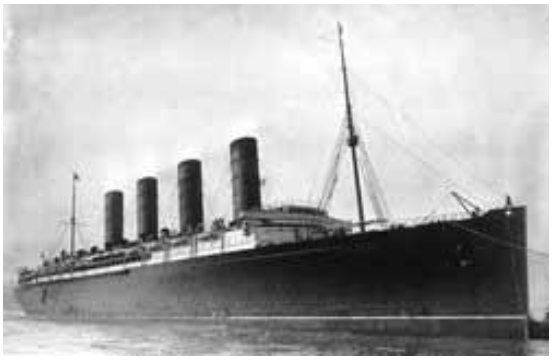
W9IMS will operate on or near:
1.840, 3.840, 7.240, 10.140, 14.070 PSK31, 14.245, 18.140, 21.350, 28.340, 50.140, 144.205, 144.240 SSB and 146.52 simplex FM. Watch for spots at sites such as DX Summit.

"A motion has been made and seconded that this should be one of those meetings where nothing actually gets done."

The Sinking of the *Lusitania*: A Ham Radio Connection?

Ref: ARRL Letter, April 30, 2015

Several Amateur Radio special event stations will be on the air in early May to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Cunard Line's RMS *Lusitania* — at one time the world's largest ship — off the coast of Ireland. As one of the events precipitating US entry into World War I, the sinking of the *Lusitania* by Germany on May 7, 1915, claimed some 1200 lives, although another 800 or so of those aboard survived.



RMS *Lusitania*.

GB100MFA will operate during the entire month of May from the UK, with members of the Radio Officers Association at the helm from the lightship *Planet* in Liverpool, *Lusitania*'s home port and its ultimate destination on its voyage from New York. EI100MFA will be on the air from Ireland May 3-10. MFA was the ship's call sign.

Other announced operations include KC9HYY/LUS100, operating May 1-9 from Wisconsin; N2L, operating May 1-15 by the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club (GSBARC) from Long Island, New York, and WW1USA, operating May 9-10 from the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, by the Santa Fe Trail Amateur Radio Club.

According to wireless history accounts, it was a radio amateur, Charles Apgar, 2MN, of Westfield, New Jersey, who finally figured out the significance of the odd buzz-like transmissions he'd heard emanating evenings from German Telefunken station WSL in Sayville, Long Island. As recounted by the late Phil Petersen, W2DME, Apgar not only was curious, but suspicious.

"Apgar had a very advanced sensitive Armstrong regenerative receiver that he modified to make off-the-air recordings on a cylinder recorder," Petersen wrote. "Suspecting that WSL was transmitting secret intelligence at very high speed, Apgar further modified his audio recorder to greatly reduce the speed on playback. As he suspected, the 'buzz' was actually secret Morse code sent at very high speed." Apgar turned his recordings of WSL's transmissions over to the US Secret Service, which seized the station in July 1915.

WSL officials "were charged with sending illegal secret messages regarding allied and neutral shipping," Petersen recounted. "It was also believed that the German submarines obtained secret information that led to the sinking of the passenger ship *Lusitania*. After the government seized the station, sinkings by U-boats greatly decreased."

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Frank Garay; KJ6RWQ
4th week of month-Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

NORTH HILLS RADIO CLUB's ANNUAL SACRAMENTO HAMFEST

The Largest and Oldest in the Valley!

SUNDAY MAY 17TH 7AM - NOON
NATOMAS HIGH SCHOOL

Directions: I-80 Exit Truxel South - Left on San Juan then Left onto Fong Ranch Road - SWAP on the left.

Drawings all day, Main Prize @ 12PM

#1.....Icom IC718 HF Radio
#2.....Alinco DJ27 HT Radio
#3.....MFJ Magmount Antenna

All Items provided by GigaParts www.gigaparts.com

Many Seller Tables

Donuts, Hot dogs and Drinks

K6IS.ORG

FREE Parking for buyers - Fun for the Family
$25 for 2 parking spaces for Sellers

Talk-In on 145.190 / 224.400 both - pl 162.2

Be sure to monitor 145.190 for Announcements

OK members; Here's your chance.

Club members can use the newsletter for to sell or trade unwanted or indicate wanted radio items.

I can handle any amount of items since it is just as easy to add more pages to the newsletter to accomodate both text and photos.

Just e-mail your items to me at jerrybowen@earthlink.net. Do not use PDFs and & keep the pictures at about 3x4" by 200 pixels.

Give your e-mail or phone number for contacting you for details such as price and transfer of your items.

Yes, it was a tough year But, I made it!!!!!

I was so depressed last night thinking about the economy — wars, jobs, my savings, Social Security, retirement funds, and our bleak future that I called the " *Suicide Lifeline* " and was connected to a call center in Pakistan. When I told them I was suicidal they got all excited and asked if I could drive a truck

---

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street: _____

City: _____Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$20.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____

Optional ARRL membership

ARRL dues	$37.00	
Total		_____

Paid by CASH: Check # _____

DATE: _____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143